

Kelly Hulce
East Leroy Elementary
4320 K Drive S
East Leroy, MI 49051

RECEIVED

2021 JUN -8 P 3: 53

Hon. Michael Kubayanda
Chairman
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001
Re: Docket number MC2021-78

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION

April 30, 2021

Dear Chariman Kubayanda,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the impact of moving bound printed matter parcels from the Market Dominant to the Competitive Product category. I know this will cause a drastic increase to the rates of flyers and books that are mailed to schools.

I teach fourth grade in East Leroy Elementary School in the Athens school district. There is no doubt that the additional costs will be passed to those book purchasers; students, parents, and teachers. The economic hardship of purchasing books for kids is already a deterrent to most families in my rural district, thus putting that responsibility on the teachers. Our classroom budget is \$50 for the entire year. We are required to purchase everything necessary to educate 25-30 students on that \$50. You can imagine trade books are not purchased out of that budget but come from the teacher's pockets. Purchasing books for my students to read is my biggest personal contribution to my classroom each year, and if the shipping costs increase, I will be unable to support my student's dire literacy needs. I depend on access to affordable books, which the bound printed matter rates provide, to help me close the gap for my Title I students. They simply cannot afford to purchase books, and I will be unable to do so also.

Typically, more than 75% of my students come from families that do not have the financial means to create home libraries for their children. As a Scholastic Book Club purchaser, I am able to earn and use Bonus Points to build my classroom library of books year after year. Student can request books for our library, but the stipulation is they need to come from Scholastic so I can use these Bonus Points to help offset my out of pocket expense. Allowing student input in the book titles helps to inspire a love for reading in my students. As you well know, literate students are literate adults, and we need to foster their love for and reading success at early an age.

This pandemic has already had tremendously negative impacts on my student's learning experience, as well as literacy rates in the country. The increase in mailing costs of educational materials will make the access to children's literature even more difficult. I urge you to deny

the transfer, or to exempt educational materials, so that I can continue to provide access to affordable, quality books for my students. The impact of this change for all school children would be too high a cost to bear. We have a duty to ensure literacy success for our children and continue promoting reading success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kelly Hulce".

Kelly Hulce

CC:

Hon. Carolyn B Maloney

Hon. Gary C. Peters

Hon. Ron Bloom

East Leroy Elementary School
4320 K Drive South
East Leroy, MI 49051

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